

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes one change to Fig. 4c. This sheet which includes Fig. 4a-4d, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 4a-4d. In Fig. 4c, the element erroneously labeled as 3 has been correctly labeled as 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

This Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections in the final Office Action and withdrawal of the same in view of the foregoing amendments and comments set forth below.

By this amendment, claims 11-23 are pending, with 11-14 being withdrawn and directed to non-elected subject matter. Claims 1-10 have been cancelled and rewritten and claims 15-23, which are currently under examination.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, as explained in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Paragraph 27 has been amended to clarify that cutting edge surfaces 31 and 32 of cutting plate 3 are diametrically opposite to each other and paragraph 28 has been amended to clarify that cutting edge surfaces 41, 42 of cutting plate 4 are also diametrically opposite each other. Additionally, amended paragraph 28 explains that cutting edge surfaces 31, 32 of cutting plate 3 are axially symmetrical to cutting edge surfaces 41, 42, of cutting plate 4, and that cutting edge 30 of plate 3 is axially symmetrical to cutting edge 40 of plate 4.

Support for the language that cutting edge surfaces 31 and 32 are diametrically opposite each other can be found, for example, in Figs. 3a and 3b. Support for the language that cutting edge surfaces 41 and 42 diametrically opposite each other is found, for example, in Figs. 4a and 4b. Fig. 2 illustrates that cutting edge surfaces 31 and 32 are

axially symmetrical to surfaces 41 and 42, respectively, and that cutting edge 30 and cutting 40 are axially symmetrical along the axis where the cutting edges are joined.

Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled and rewritten as claim 19. Claim 19 defines the position of the surfaces that are symmetrical and is supported by amended paragraphs 27 and 28. Applicants submit that new claim 19 is fully enabled by the present specification. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. As explained in the preceding paragraph, claim 19 defines the position of the surfaces that are symmetrical. Applicants believe that the specification and the claim clearly indicate symmetry along the axis where the cutting edges are joined (i.e. along the common edge shown in figure 2) and that claim 19 is definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this rejection is also requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,668,691 to Jakobi et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Jakobi”) as described in paragraph 4 of the Action. Claim 1 has been cancelled and presented as new claim 15, which further defines the structure of the cutting plates. Specifically, claim 15 recites that the cutting plates have a front and a back side and a rectangular cross section. The claim further requires that one of the three cutting edges extend diagonally from the front and back side of the respective cutting plate. Support for the claimed structure is

found, for example, in paragraphs 27 and 28 of the present specification (discussing back side 34 of cutting plate and front side 43 of cutting plate).

Jakobi does not disclose the required elements of claim 15. At the very least, Jakobi fails to disclose a cutting edge that extends diagonally between a front and back side of a respective cutting plate. The cutting portions 20a and 20b illustrated in Fig. 3 of Jakobi do not extend from the front and back sides of the respective cutting plate; the cutting portions of Jakobi are present along an entirely different face. In order for Jakobi to anticipate this required claim element, the cutting edge would have to extend along the side where the two rectangular faces meet, rather than between them. Because Jakobi does not anticipate at least this claim element, Jakobi cannot anticipate claim 15. As remaining claims 16-23 depend from claim 15, Jakobi also cannot anticipate these claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,083,747 to Zysset ("Zysset") for reasons set forth in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. Like Jakobi, Zysset fails to disclose a cutting edge extending diagonally between a front and back side of a respective cutting plate. Again in Zysset, the knives are present along a different face of the rectangle. Accordingly, Zysset fails to disclose at least this required feature of claim 15 and Zysset cannot anticipate the claim. Zysset also cannot anticipate claims 16-23, which depend from claim 15. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

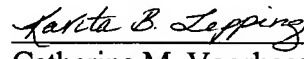
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim independent claim 15 and dependent claims 16-23 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejections and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of the application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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